

Appl. No. 09/369,767
Att. Docket No. 10191/1146
Supplemental Response To Final Office Action of 06/19/2002

REMARKS

Claims 9 and 13 are canceled without prejudice, and therefore claims 1 to 8, 10 to 12 and 14 to 22 are now pending.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Supplemental Answer of March 12, 2004, which modified the Final Office Action of June 19, 2004.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of this response. It is believed that this Amendment does not raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search, and also does not raise the issue of new matter.

As discussed in a phone conference between Aaron C. Deditch (reg. no. 33,865) and Examiner Olsen on May 5, 2004, and in response to the Supplemental Answer of March 12, 2004 and in further response to the Final Office Action mailed June 19, 2002, please enter the following claim amendments and reconsider the above-identified application based on the following. As discussed with Examiner Olsen, this supplemental response is in lieu of a Reply to the Supplemental Answer of March 12, 2004, the response to which is due on May 12, 2004.

Examiner Olsen kindly agreed in the phone conference that the claim amendments made herein were acceptable and would be entered.

Following the Examiner's Supplemental Answer mailed on March 12, 2004, the status of the claims is as follows:

- Claims 9 and 18 stand objected to as depending from a rejected claim.
- Claims 21 and 22 stand allowed.
- Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 12-15, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,400,260 to Stahl et al. ("the Stahl reference") in view of the Ohyama, Kojima, Nakajima or Sone references, and as evidenced by the Logothetis reference.
- Claims 1 to 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,413,683 to Murase et al. ("the Murase reference") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,909,922 to Kato ("the Kato reference").
- Claims 15 to 17, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,413,683 to Murase et al. ("the Murase reference") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,909,922 to Kato ("the Kato reference") as applied to claim 1, and in further view of the Liu reference.

Accordingly, to facilitate matters (and while the rejections may not be agreed with),

claim 1 has been rewritten to include the feature of claim 9, which has now been canceled, claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice, and claim 18 has been rewritten as an independent claim to include all of the features of claims 1, 15, 16 and 18. Accordingly, claims 1 and 18 are allowable, like allowed claims 21 and 22.

As regards claims 2 to 8, 10 to 12, 14 to 17, 19 and 20, these claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Accordingly, claims 1 to 8, 10 to 12, and 14 to 20 are allowable, like allowed claims 21 and 22.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is believed that the rejections have been obviated, and it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 to 8, 10 to 12, and 14 to 20 are allowable, like allowed claims 21 and 22. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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